

The Library Binder

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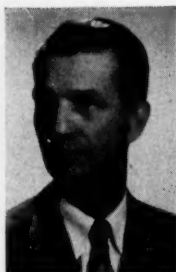
IN THE INTEREST OF
INCREASED USAGE AND
PROPER PRESERVATION
OF BOOKS

VOLUME V

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NUMBER 1

President's Column



objectives we cannot achieve by working alone.

This is true not only of local PTA's and social organizations, but is equally applicable to our trade and professional organizations. One of the reasons why our nation's libraries are dynamic and progressive, and contribute so much to our society, is the vigorous and all-pervading activities of the professional organizations of librarians and those associated with them. The energies of the thousands of librarians contributing to the work of the ALA, and its associated organizations represents a powerful cooperative effort on the part of Americans to achieve together objectives which no one person could hope to accomplish alone.

What ALA seeks to accomplish in its field, other trade and professional organizations work towards in their own respective areas of endeavor. LBI is such a trade organization. Its cornerstone is the idea of SERVICE.

The ways in which LBI serves originate in the nature of the library binding industry and the function of library binding in a library. Ours is a small industry volumewise, and composed of small businessmen. As such, the task of LBI is to help library binders become better businessmen. Our programs of establishing the highest standards of quality and ethical dealing, management training institutes, research projects, and statistical studies are all designed to maintain an alert, competitive industry, progressive and prosperous.

While in its service to binders, LBI follows the pattern of the other trade associations in the United States, it is in the service it renders to librarians that LBI is perhaps unique among trade associations. The reasons for this situation are to be found in the fact that library binders have not but one class of customers—librarians. Coupled with this is the equally important fact that library binding is the principal means whereby library materials are made available to library users at the minimum cost per use, provided the proper binding is used.

I am continually amazed at the degree to which librarians rely upon LBI for help and advice. Our mail bag daily has requests for information from the country over. Indeed, we receive inquiries from the four corners of the free world. The range of requests is equally interesting. A librarian who has just assumed a position in a high school wants to help in stretching her budget by a judicious use of library binding. A Canadian librarian wants volumes examined to determine whether they comply with a contract. A librarian in Montana wants advice on binding periodicals. Another from the South is troubled by mildew. Requests come in for assistance as a result of water damage. Almost daily some one asks for a list of Certified Library Binders. Of late there have been letters from librarians confused over advertisements representing that a product is library binding when in fact it is not, but is a publisher's reinforced binding (this is particularly true of prebinds).

The importance of this service cannot be overlooked. The demand for LBI's posters and brochures has exceeded our estimates. In aiding librarians LBI and its members feel that they are performing a useful function. We welcome inquiries and seek to answer all questions or direct the inquiry to the source best able to furnish information. Ours is a unique partnership with librarians, and we are fortunate in having a reservoir of talent from which we can draw for help. In a sense we are a clearing house, for we obtain technical information from both binders and librarians.

It is with this background in mind that LBI has initiated what we expect to be an annual event, the LBI ESSAY CONTEST for library students. Its purpose is to encourage students in library schools to think in terms of a sound conservation program.

For that fundamentally is what we at LBI seek — conservation programs geared to reader requirements. That is why we binders have joined LBI and why LBI's programs have been shaped to meet the needs of our industry and our customers.

LIBRARY BINDING CAN STRETCH YOUR BUDGET

With the decline in the purchasing power of the dollar, it is more than ever important to stretch every dollar to its limit. Librarians with adequate binding budgets find that money spent for library binding actually stretches the available funds a library has to spend. This is apparent from the following analysis:

The average unit cost of current book titles is \$2.45 per volume. If it circulates up to 40 times, the cost per circulation is 6.12c per circulation. If it is then rebound according to the Minimum Specifications, it can give another 80 circulations. The cost of rebinding averages \$1.65, so that the average cost per circulation for the rebound volume is 2.06c per circulation, or about one-third of the cost of circulation of the publisher's edition.

By rebinding, the library's book cost for 120 circulations is \$4.10, or 3.41c per circulation.

If the library does not rebound but purchases new volumes, to get 120 circulations it will have to buy two more volumes, at a total cost for 120 circulations of \$7.35. Its average cost per circulation becomes 6.12c.

The difference in price between rebinding and purchasing new volumes is the difference between paying \$7.35 or \$4.10 or a saving of \$3.25 per current title.

The cost of \$2.45 for current book titles, and \$1.65 for rebinding is taken from page 7 of the pamphlet, "Costs of Public Library Service in 1956," prepared by Co-ordinating Committee on Revision of Public Library Standards, Public Libraries Division, ALA (published by ALA 1956). The circulation figures are taken from the study prepared by the Joint Committee of ALA and LBI conducted in 1954.

Whether it's rebinding of current volumes or of other titles instead of replacement substantial savings can be effected by use of library binding. But the saving of money is not the only advantage. Rebound volumes look as attractive as new in their gaily colored or illustrated covers. They are sturdy, clean and inviting. Readers psychologically tend to select volumes that are physically attractive.

For advice on your binding problems consult a Certified Library Binder.

Fine Bindings -

A Lost Art?

(The following editorial (January 11, 1957) and column (January 18, 1957), sparked by a letter from J. George Ort, president, Art Guild Bindery, Cincinnati, are reprinted from the Cincinnati Times-Star).

ON THE BINDING OF BOOKS

One of the best businesses to take up if you want to lose money is fancy-Dan bookbinding, called by its devotees a vanishing art. At least, so we hear. Most of its practitioners, at any rate, have vanished.

First of the remaining amateurs, news dispatches state, is the Duke of Windsor, never so happy as when sewing the sheets of some bibliophilic treasure, or giving a friend a hand-fashioned copy of "A King's Story," which he lived and then authored.

But only a former king, still up in the chips, or an occasional business magnate, can afford to indulge in hand bindings, either by learning the trade himself, or employing a professional to refurbish his library.

Most of the finely-bound books of today are in museums, with dust filling the fine designs of their tooling and time dimming the luster of their letters of gold.

Nowadays people read books for what is in them. But one may regret the more lovely, less practical, volumes that our grandpappies knew — those of "a beautiful quarto page, where a neat rivulet of text . . . meandered through a meadow of margin."

Columbia University in New York has a class in fine bookbinding, so perhaps there is hope. Cincinnati, a great book-publishing and binding center in the early nineteenth century, might, for history's sake, suggest a similar course at the University of Cincinnati before those who might teach the art have vanished into the dark of night.

SECOND THOUGHTS

by NIXSON DENTON

An editorial in the *Times-Star* last week got far enough away from the budget, conditions in the Middle East and the status of Comrade Bulganin to resurrect, at least for the moment, what once was one of Cincinnati's great industries.

There was a time when the Queen City could bind a book with the best of them, and a good many citizens were aware of the fame of Jean Grolier, Aldus Manutius and Nicholas Eve.

The editorial in question touched off sparks from the professional pride of J. George Ort,

president of the Art Guild Bindery, 324 East Ninth St., who sat down and wrote a letter to the editor, which anyone interested in good bookbinding might like to file away in his memory.

Here is Mr. Ort's communication, without the quotation marks which I have grown to despise, but with a good deal of bookbinding know-how which took me back half a century, when I was in grave danger of becoming a bookbinder myself.

Dear Sir, the letter goes: Your editorial "On the Binding of Books" in your paper of Jan. 11, 1957 was of great interest to me.

Your comments are quite correct, first of all, that "fancy-Dan bookbinding" is a money-losing business; and secondly, that it is a vanishing art.

Perhaps Cincinnati is more fortunate than other cities, for you can still have fine bindings done and at prices which not "only a former king, still up in the chips or an occasional business magnate can afford," but any lover of books and fine bindings who has the price of an evening's entertainment in one of the plush places of the city (which may leave him with but a headache the next morning), can also afford gold tooled leather bindings.

There are many who indulge in the pleasure of classical Hi-fi records who are not in the top income brackets — neither do you have to be a top executive to enjoy personal library possessions, bound by hand in leather and tooled and decorated by capable craftsmen.

Our firm is only a block from the "Ivory-Tower" of the *Times-Star* and it is our pleasure to serve lovers of fine bindings in our city as well as those living in some other states, and we derive as much joy and happiness from "sewing the sheets of some bibliophilic treasure" as does the Duke of Windsor, whom we welcome as a colleague, rather than a competitor.

Sometime ago, when Mr. Wyman Parker was still director of libraries at the University of Cincinnati, an attempt was made by him and Dean Pickering to establish a course in hand bookbinding at the College of Applied Arts, but no funds for such purposes were made available in the UC budget. The idea has been temporarily shelved, but the demand for such a course still exists.

In our opinion, the press could be most helpful in reviving interest in fine bindings. We have observed on numerous occasions that when reporting on the presentation of a fine leather-bound book the writer would simply say "a handsomely leather-bound volume was presented to . . ." never a mention of the artist who created it (to wit: the Book of Homage in the lobby of the Cincinnati Public Library).

It is not uncommon that the typographer, the printer and the papermaker are mentioned in the colophon of a fine or limited edition of a literary gem — but hardly ever the "fancy-

Dan" bookbinder. Only recently, your own esteemed bibliophile Nixon Denton, in reviewing "Fischerisms," compiled by Howard Fabing and Ray Marr, limited his comments to: "Reprinted very beautifully by . . . Bert Smith's 'Acres of Books' . . . good writing along with good printing.

But the binder? — as always the forgotten man and step-child of the graphic arts industry. This is not the exception, it is the usual treatment. Every artist, be it painter, writer, musician, composer or sculptor, is either praised or deplored, whatever the case may be, but his name is never deleted by the critic.

As for my own adventure in binding (despite Mr. Ort, it made me no bibliophile) that occurred in Muskogee, Okla., and resulted in the production for a girl friend of perhaps one of the most beautiful books of blank pages that ever was.

She wanted a repository for cooking receipts, she told me, and the Aldus Manutius of Muskogee took off at full speed, producing in red morocco, lettered and tooled in gold, quite a masterpiece.

Unfortunately, the young lady, while she seemed to like the book well enough, must have liked a friend of mine better than she liked me, for she married him, leaving me to my own devices.

These devices didn't include the further binding of books, but I can still thrill to a good job done in vellum or levant.

I thought some of this column's readers might enjoy Mr. Ort's communication.



WELCOME TO WAGENVOORD

Another newcomer to LBI is Wagenvoord & Company, Lansing, Michigan, one of the oldest established library bookbinders in the country.

Organized in 1890 in Lansing by James F. Wagenvoord and his son, J. William Wagenvoord, the company since birth has confined its operations exclusively to the rebinding of books and binding of periodicals.

Today the company is under the management of Cornelius Wagenvoord, president, and John G. Riegel, general manager and secretary-treasurer. Mr. Wagenvoord is the third generation of the family to be associated with the company. He learned the trade during his school years and upon graduation from Michigan State University in 1933, he took over active management of the business.

Mr. Riegel became associated with the company in 1951. He has an extensive background in banking and wholesaling-distributing. He was educated in Michigan.

During the past few years, the bindery has been completely modernized and now has the latest equipment. Its guiding policy is to continue the production and development of Class A Library Binding for its customers.

Binding Problems

by CHARLES A. LEUNIG

Formerly Executive Vice President
and General Manager

H. R. Hunting Company

At a panel discussion on binding before the American Association of School Librarians and the Division of Libraries for Children and Young People, the ALA Board on Book Binding and Publishers' Representatives.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We regret to announce that since this was set in type, Mr. Leunig has died. An obituary notice appears in this issue.

At the meeting of your organizations on a very hot day last year at Columbia University, I overheard the remark made that: "Binding is a dirty word." The subject being discussed here today is: "How I See Binding Problems." I would prefer to change it to: "What Prebinders Have Done to Meet and Overcome Binding Problems."

First of all, I would like to discuss: "What is a Prebinder?" He is a manufacturing wholesaler who invests a great deal of money, sight unseen in most cases, in large quantities of children's books of all publishers — spends considerably more money providing each book with a binding which will withstand the terrifically hard usage to which it is subjected by school and public library circulation. He invests his money months before he begins to sell his product on a "risk" basis because prebound books may not be returned to the publisher. If these prebound books do not sell, he is left "holding the bag."

He serves you, the librarian, by making it possible for you to save staff time, transportation and other costs because you may order your books of all publishers from one source. You make out but one order, you receive only one to three shipments, and the same number of invoices.

If there were no wholesaler prebinders, you would be forced through the costly process of writing as many as 80 or 90 orders. (Actually, there are 80 publishers whose titles are listed in our Standard Catalog). You would have to unpack and check as many as 150 shipments and process the same large number of invoices, prepare and mail the same large number of remittances, plus all the letters you would have to write regarding shorts, errors and other matters of service.

Furthermore, if there were no wholesaler prebinders, there would be no standard of quality of the bindings you would receive because, as has already been proven, you would find yourself with possibly as many as 80 or 90 different kinds of bindings in accordance with what each publisher thought the binding

should be. Under such chaotic conditions, binding would indeed be a "dirty" word for you.

On the other hand, the prebinder in furnishing you with Class "A" binding conforms to the specifications for good library bindings which were chosen and adopted by you as members of the American Library Association. You know exactly what you are getting when you place your order with a legitimate certified wholesaler prebinder.

At this point it might be well to explain Class "A" library binding and what makes it that way.

A Class "A" library binding starts with a set of folded and gathered sheets, that is, when the publisher cooperates by supplying folded and gathered sheets. Today, for the most part, publishers supply only the newest titles in folded and gathered sheets. On back list or older titles, few publishers cooperate by supplying these sheets. In such cases we are obliged to take bound books, remove the covers, sand off the glue on the back-bone and start from there. That's why the story got around last year at Columbia University that "pre-binders" destroy the publishers' beautiful bindings.

The first section of sheets is sewed by Oversewing machine to a reinforced end sheet of specified quality of paper and cloth hinge reinforcement. In turn, all the sections are sewed one section to another and finally topped with second endleaf.

These sewed sheets are then rounded and backed to form a perfect hinge, then lined with Canton flannel which is a reinforcement to all of the sewing.

Then the sheets are trimmed in a power cutting machine and the edges are sprinkled.

Now a case or cover must be provided for the sheets. This starts with two pieces of best quality 80 point Davey Board or equal (not cheap chip board which is used in most trade bindings including many of the so-called publishers' library bindings).

Over these boards which form the front and back covers is placed only the best quality buckram cloth. Picture Covers or Treasure Trove cloths in attractive design are generally used. In cases where they are not available the prebinder uses plain top quality buckram and stamps the title in gold. Library Corners — an extra hand operation which provides additional strength — are formed at the four corners of the binding.

(Publishers' bindings including their so-called "library bindings" are usually bound in much cheaper and lighter cloth and without library corners).

The sheets and covers are now brought together by the prebinder and are cased-in — sometimes by hand — sometimes by a casing-in machine, after which the finished books are placed in presses for twenty-four to forty-eight hours for seasoning and then are sent to the stock bins.

There are many intermediate steps in processing a Class "A" library binding which I am not describing because time does not permit. However, there is one which I would like to talk about:

Before books are placed in stock bins, a crew of inspectors collates each book page for page to prevent imperfectly paged books from reaching you. This is important because it avoids the possibility that you will receive imperfect books and then have to return them to us.

A librarian in Indiana wrote us recently about a small boy who took out a copy of DAVY CROCKETT in the Childhood of Young American Series. About a week later he returned to the library with a very sad expression on his face and explained that just when he was in the very best part of the book about DAVY CROCKETT, he suddenly found himself reading about Louisa May Alcott. This is just one reason for collating.

Books bound in Class "A" library binding last, and last and last and they do not have to be removed from the shelves for months at a time while they are being rebound. The first cost of the prebound book is the last cost.

Here are two examples of the endurance of Class "A" library binding. They have been furnished through the courtesy and cooperation of Mr. Sibert of the New Method Book Bindery. The first is DEEDY & FAWNY by Mary Lee John. This copy was put into circulation in 1940 and removed in the spring of 1956. It is still in very good condition. At least six copies of the publisher's binding would not have lasted as long.

Another title is ROSY NOSE by Martin. There are one hundred circulations showing yet it is still in useable condition except for a couple of torn pages. It would have required at least four copies in publisher's binding to equal this circulation.

We have with us for contrast a book bound in Class "A" binding and the same book in so-called publisher's library binding. Upon examination you will note that the publisher's binding is bound in light cloth subject to immediate abrasion and wear; that it has no library corners; no reinforced endleaves; no flannel reinforcement; in fact, its one good feature is that it is Singer Sewn instead of Smythe sewn. Otherwise, it is lacking in all other requirements of good library binding, yet the publisher adds 25c to 50c to the list price of the book because of this very minor improvement and then calls it a "library binding".

Mr. Dudley Weiss of the Library Binding Institute is here today and I hope he will be given the opportunity to express the views of the prebinder from the floor of this meeting.

Speaking only for the H. R. Hunting Company, we also provide what we call P-K

Economy Binding. This binding goes through the same process of oversewing and reinforcement as Class "A" Binding but we use the publisher's cover if a cloth cover is provided. This cover is treated with a special DuPont lacquer to make it damp and vermin resistant. It is delivered to you either with or without Plasti-Kleer or Mylar jackets. It is not as good as Grade "A" library binding but is better and stronger than the original binding because of its oversewing and reinforcement, and is somewhat less costly than Class "A" binding. Many librarians have found it useful, particularly on teen-age titles.

We also supply regular publishers' trade bindings.

It has been and is our policy to try to educate those who need it as to what they should buy to get the most for the public's money which they are spending.

We offer to screen any order to insure that the most useful bindings, considering cost, are provided.

We believe that for the long pull, Grade "A" library binding is the most useful, most attractive and most economical binding for school and public library use.

However, we have no particular ax to grind. After you have made up your mind we, like Marshall Field, "give the lady what she wants!!"

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LIBRARY BINDING COMES OUT ON TOP IN TESTS

Library Binding versus Publishers Reinforced Binding — these two bindings recently underwent three different tests to determine which binding could best withstand the abusive wear and tear which books might get from normal library use.

The tests — two "tumbling", one "abrasion", were made by the United States Testing Company, Inc., Hoboken, N.J., at the request of the Library Binding Institute.

The results — in every case library binding came out on top, outlasting publishers reinforced Bindings by at least three times.

Here's how the tests worked.

Tumbling Test No. 1, dated November 14, 1956.

Six lots of books, identified as "Library Binding" and "Publishers Reinforced Binding," were subjected to a tumbling test in a revolving drum which revolved back and forth at about 36 revolutions per minute. The books were made up of different types of binding and it was the purpose of this test to simulate the abuse these books might receive in a library or in the hands of children and to determine how these various types of binding might stand up to such abuse.

The books were divided into six lots — the purpose of this being to have books of almost equal weight and dimensions in each lot — and each lot was subjected to the tumbling test for a maximum period of three hours. At intervals of 30 minutes the books were individually inspected to determine the reaction of the various bindings to the test.

The samples described as "Library Binding" were bound in accordance with Minimum Specifications for Prebound New Books of the Joint Committee of American Library Association and Library Binding Institute. The samples described as "Reinforced Publisher's Binding" in lots 1 through 5 were bound in a lightweight cloth, were Singer or Smythe sewn, have lightweight board and endleaves, no real hinges. The samples in lot 6 called "Buckram Reinforced" has a lightweight or "record" buckram and is Singer sewn. The sample in lot 6 called "Paper Binding" is a so-called "perfect" binding which is reinforced. Results of these tests dated November 14, 1956 are shown on the opposite page.

TUMBLING TEST No. 2, DATED JANUARY 14, 1957

Twenty volumes of books representing two different type bindings, identified as "Library Binding and Publishers Reinforced Binding" were divided into five different lots, the purpose of this being to have books of almost

equal weight and dimensions in each lot. Each lot contained four volumes, two Library Binding and two Publishers Reinforced Binding.

The various lots of books were subjected to a tumbling test in a revolving drum which revolved back and forth at about 36 revolutions per minute. The books were of various types of binding and it was the purpose of this test to simulate the abuse these books might receive in a library or in the hands of children and to determine how the various bindings might stand up to such abuse. This tumbling test differed from the former tumbling test, in which case both the pages and cover of the books were free to open and close; in this test, however, only the book covers were free to open and close, the pages having been taped together.

Each lot of books was subjected to the tumbling test for a maximum period of three hours, at intervals of 30 minutes. The books were individually inspected to determine the reaction of the various bindings to the test.

The samples described as "Library Binding" were bound in accordance with Minimum Specifications for Prebound New Books of the Joint Committee of American Library Association and Library Binding Institute. The samples described as Reinforced Publishers Binding were bound in a lightweight cloth, were Singer or Smythe sewn, have lightweight board and endleaves, no real hinge. Results of Tumbling Test No. 2 are shown on page 8.

ABRASION TEST

Ten volumes of books representing two different type bindings, identified as "Library Binding and Publishers Reinforced Binding" were divided into five different Lots, the purpose of this being to have books of almost equal weight and dimensions in each lot. Each lot contained 2 volumes — 1 Library binding and 1 Publishers Reinforced Edition.

Two methods of Abrasion Tests were conducted on each book representing the two types of bindings (Library Binding and Publishers Reinforced Edition).

Method No. 1 — Taber Abrasion Test

Four-inch specimens cut from the covers of each book were used in this test. Specimens mounted on the rotating table of the tester were held on contact with CS No. 17 Calibrase wheels which exerted a pressure of 1000 grams.

Each set of specimens was abraded 75 cycles and 200 cycles and then examined for degree of wear.

NOTE: Due to the limited size of sample only the 200 cycle stage was conducted on the No. 1 samples.

Method No. 2 — Universal Wear Tester (Edge Abrasion)

(continued page 9)

Lot #1 TESTS DATED NOVEMBER 14, 1956

	<u>Library Binding (2)</u>	<u>Publishers Reinforced (2)</u>
after ½ hr.	no change	Broken binding thread
after 1 hr.	no change	Binding coming apart
after 1½ hrs.	no change	Test discontinued after 1 hr.
after 2 hrs.	slight loosening of binding	.....
after 2½ hrs.	binding broken on one	.....
after 3 hrs.	binding broken on both	.....

Lot #2

	<u>Library Binding (2)</u>	<u>Publishers Reinforced (3)</u>
after ½ hr.	no change	Broken binding thread (3)
after 1 hr.	no change	Broken & frayed corners
after 1½ hrs.	no change	Test discontinued after 1 hr.
after 2 hrs.	no change	.....
after 2½ hrs.	no change	.....
after 3 hrs.	slight cracking of binding on (1)	.....

Lot #3

	<u>Library Binding (2)</u>	<u>Publishers Reinforced (2)</u>
after ½ hr.	no change	Binding broken and loosened
after 1 hr.	no change	Discontinued after ½ hr.
after 1½ hrs.	no change	.....
after 2 hrs.	no change	.....
after 2½ hrs.	no change	.....
after 3 hrs.	slight cracking of binding	.....

Lot #4

	<u>Library Binding (2)</u>	<u>Publishers Edition (2)</u>
after ½ hr.	no change	Binding thread broken
after 1 hr.	no change	Binding broken and loosened
after 1½ hrs.	no change	Discontinued after 1 hr.
after 2 hrs.	no change	.....
after 2½ hrs.	no change	.....
after 3 hrs.	no change	.....

Lot #5

	<u>Library Binding (4)</u>	<u>Publishers Reinforced (2)</u>
after ½ hr.	no change	Binding thread broken
after 1 hr.	no change	Considerable loosening from cover
after 1½ hrs.	no change	Test discontinued after 1 hr.
after 2 hrs.	no change	.....
after 2½ hrs.	no change	.....
after 3 hrs.	slight cracking and loosening of binding	.....

Lot #6

	<u>Library Binding (4)</u>	<u>Buckram Publishers Reinforced (2)</u>	<u>Trade Edition Paper Binding (2)</u>
after ½ hr.	no change	Slight loosening	Books badly burst
after 1 hr.	no change	Broken binding, leaves falling out	test discontinued
after 1½ hrs.	slight loosening of binding on all	Test discontinued after 1 hr.	.....
after 2 hrs.	slight loosening of binding on all	.....	.....
after 2½ hrs.	slight loosening of binding on all	.....	.....
after 3 hrs.	Considerable loosening of binding on one	.....	.....

Comment: From the results obtained during the course of the test it may be noted that books having the "Library Binding" are much more durable and can be expected to take much more abuse than the other type bindings submitted by client.

Lot #1 TESTS DATED JANUARY 14, 1957

	<u>Library Binding</u>	<u>Publishers Reinforced Edition</u>
after ½ hr.	no change	Slight loosening of binding
after 1 hr.	no change	Corners slightly frayed
after 1½ hrs.	no change	Binding thread broken
after 2 hrs.	no change	Test discontinued after 1½ hrs.
after 2½ hrs.	no change	.....
after 3 hrs.	no change	.....

Lot #2

	<u>Library Binding</u>	<u>Publishers Reinforced Edition</u>
after ½ hr.	no change	Slight loosening and tearing of binding
after 1 hr.	no change	Cover loosened — Binding thread broken
after 1½ hrs.	no change	Test discontinued after 1 hr.
after 2 hrs.	no change	.....
after 2½ hrs.	slight loosening of binding	.....
after 3 hrs.	slight tearing of binding	.....

Lot #3

	<u>Library Binding</u>	<u>Publishers Reinforced Edition</u>
after ½ hr.	no change	Slight loosening of binding
after 1 hr.	no change	Considerable loosening & frayed corners
after 1½ hrs.	no change	Binding thread broken
after 2 hrs.	no change	Test discontinued after 1½ hrs.
after 2½ hrs.	no change	.....
after 3 hrs.	slight loosening of binding	.....

Lot #4

	<u>Library Binding</u>	<u>Publishers Reinforced Edition</u>
after ½ hr.	no change	Very slight loosening
after 1 hr.	no change	Considerable loosening
after 1½ hrs.	no change	Binding thread broken
after 2 hrs.	no change	Test discontinued after 1½ hrs.
after 2½ hrs.	no change	.....
after 3 hrs.	very slight loosening	.....

Lot #5

	<u>Library Binding</u>	<u>Publishers Reinforced Edition</u>
after ½ hr.	no change	No change
after 1 hr.	no change	Slight fraying of corners
after 1½ hrs.	no change	Considerable loosening from cover
after 2 hrs.	no change	Test discontinued after 1½ hrs.
after 2½ hrs.	Very slight loosening	.....
after 3 hrs.	Slight loosening	.....

Comment: From the results obtained during the course of the test it may be noted that books having the "Library Binding" are much more durable and can be expected to take much more abuse than books having the "Publishers Reinforced Binding".

The bottom edges of the books were used for this test. The specimens were cut exactly $1\frac{1}{8}$ " by $1\frac{1}{2}$ " to $1\frac{3}{4}$ " with the smaller dimension ($1\frac{1}{8}$ "") representing the height or depth of specimen. The specimen was placed in the edge abrasion device with the bottom or edge of the book cover held uppermost and in contact with the head of tester. The head of the tester was covered with No. 320 Aloxite. When the tester was set in motion the edge of the specimen would oscillate backward and forward contacting the abradant. This action simulates to some extent the rubbing condition to which the books would be subjected when being placed onto and removed from shelves. A one half pound head load was used in this survey.

The book edges were subjected to 100 and 150 cycles and examined for degree of wear.

Test Results:

In both instances (Taber Test and Edge Abrasion Test) the samples designated as Library Method were found to possess considerably greater abrasive resistance than the samples designated as Publishers Reinforced Edition. This ranking of the samples was consistent both at the lower and higher abrasive stage.

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LIBRARIANS ENJOY

ODD BOOKMARKS

by ARLENE FISHER

Reprinted from

Lancaster, Pa., New Era—Tuesday, March 19, 1957

Bookmarks are elusive things—we rarely ever can find one when necessary. Instead, we pick up the nearest object—a bobbypin, chewing gum wrapper, or glass case—and make it serve the purpose.

At least this is what librarians at the Lancaster Free Public Library find when they look through the books returned each day.

The great variety of objects found indicate a wide scope of age and interests. A bobbypin from a girl's hair, a copy of homework from a pupil's notebook, a sheet of music for a ukulele, bills a reader forgot to pay and receipts of ones already paid—all are common markers.

Door keys, nail files, glass cases and sometimes even eye glasses, match books, toothpicks, combs, post cards, and letters are also found.

"If we find letters in books that haven't been mailed," says Ernest Doerschuk, librarian, "we go ahead and mail them. I guess sometimes this doesn't suit, but we just take that chance."



The Parable of the Book and the Cover

Once upon a time there was a book. It was a very nice book, too, because it gave pleasure to so many children. But this book, because it was so popular, had to take a great deal of abuse and before long started to fall apart at the seams — its cover, its coat became tattered and torn — and it was so dirty that all the children who had formerly liked the book so much, now left it to gather dust on the shelf. The children's librarian who had charge of this book was new on the job and wasn't acquainted with the way to help such lonely and forlorn waifs as our little friend.

One day a man came in. He talked to the librarian for some time and finally the book heard him say, "Let me take one of your books and show you what can be done."

"Why, of course," was the answer. "Help yourself." And with that the man came over and selected the very book which is the hero of our story.

He took this book home with him to a big workshop like a hospital where there were many, many other books — all having operations performed on them. It was called a Library Bindery. Here our book was cut apart, its cover thrown away, its pages repaired and sewn and a brand new cover with a beautiful picture fastened to it. Ah — this cover! It was made of heavy waterproof, wear-resistant buckram, and the picture was screened in the most beautiful colors of plastic inks — which could hardly be scraped off with a knife they were so durable. It is called a genuine PICTURE COVER, and it is made only in New York City.

Well, finally, the book went back to the library, and it was put in its place on the shelf.

Almost immediately the children started to read it again. And the demand for this particular book with the beautiful cover was so great that it was read by almost a hundred more children. Or course, it could give pleasure to that many because it now had a Library Binding with a genuine PICTURE COVER.

The librarian? Oh, she learned a wonderful lesson from this book. She now uses only Library Binding and specifies only genuine PICTURE COVERS — And the cost: Much less than the original book.



THE LIBRARIANS also find photographs and snapshots which they keep for a short time for the owners. If items aren't claimed after a while, they are thrown out.

Books read over the past few months have come back containing Christmas cards and Valentines. The Christmas season is the busiest time for the librarians. "I guess the reason why we get more unusual bookmarks then is because everyone is more rushed. That's the time when we find the most money left in books, too," says Mrs. Ruth Barton, one of the librarians.

Small articles of clothing are also left in the books. Men's and women's handkerchiefs, and plastic rain caps are but a few.

Chewing gum wrappers and chewing gum itself is often found sticking between the pages of a novel. And various forms of food, such as cookie crumbs and breakfast cereal occasionally turn up in a thrilling adventure story read at the breakfast table.

"We even found a five dollar bill one time," says Doerschuk. "We called the woman to tell her, or she probably wouldn't have missed it."

DO LOCAL READERS ever write comments in margins of books?

"Yes, I'm sorry to say, some do," says Doerschuk. "Of course, we discourage it, but it still happens once in a while. There's one woman who regularly takes out a book on rockets. The book written by a rocket expert outlines the course for sending a fleet of rockets to Mars through a series of complicated equations. The woman insists on solving the equations in the margins of the books, adding corrections and comments.

"Each time she returns it, we erase them, and when she takes it out again, the same thing happens all over again."

LIB TOTS UP INQUIRIES

FROM ALL OVER WORLD

Increasing numbers of inquiries for information from librarians all over the world are being received daily, reports the Library Binding Institute.

From September 1955 to September 1956, says the Institute, inquiries have been received from every state in the Union, except Idaho, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Utah.

Largest numbers of inquiries, 25 or more, have come in from California, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania.

Foreign-wise, the Institute tallied requests for information from Canada, England, Brazil, Australia, South Africa, West Africa, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Denmark, and Turkey.

SECRETARY AND DUKE

AID HAND BOOKBINDERS'

OLD AND FADING CRAFT

★ ★ ★

*Support of Loyal Bibliophiles
Keeps Binders Going But
Their Trade Dwindles*

*(Reprinted from The Wall Street Journal
January 7, 1957)*

by LOUIS KRAAR

Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal

NEW YORK—A secretary at New York's International Nickel Co., Inc., the president of a large book publishing house and the Duke of Windsor are helping to keep alive the ancient art of hand bookbinding.

Miss Andree V. Pimont, the secretary, binds her own books in leather covers for the sheer fun of it. The one-time King of England gives friends hand-bound copies of his own book, "A King's Story." And Max Lincoln Schuster, president of New York's Simon & Schuster, Inc., each Christmas presents the company's active authors leather-bound copies of their own books.

These diverse individuals are members of a dwindling but loyal band of bibliophiles. Late in the 19th century, when the nation's wealthy still were unburdened by income taxes, hand binderies were enjoying a flourishing business. Now things have changed.

NOT MUCH LONGER

"I don't think this trade will last much longer than the present generation," laments snowy-haired Whitman Bennett, 73-year old owner of Bennett Book Studios, Inc., in New York.

Mr. Bennett's studio is one of the dozen or so binderies active in the U.S. which, together, do no more than a \$500,000 annual volume. Although hand binders still charge from \$8 to \$400 a book, depending on the quality of the leather and the type of ornamentation, old-timers claim hardly any shop makes a significant profit.

"Fine hand bookbinding is definitely on the decline, and survives today only for prestige purposes," declares 76-year-old Leonard Mountenay, the only hand craftsman at Cuneo Press, Inc., of Chicago. "The hand bindery at Cuneo exists only to impress people, and if it were designed to make a profit it would close down immediately," he relates.

R. R. Donnelley & Sons of Chicago also maintains a money losing hand bindery. "It attracts favorable attention and sometimes develops commercial contacts," explains Harold Tribollet, manager.

SIDELINE IN RARE BOOKS

Few hand craftsmen today try to sustain themselves on bookbinding alone. Some work for diversified printing concerns like Cuneo; others stay on their own, but dabble in such sidelines as selling rare books. And many bookbinders work for pleasure, not profit.

"We have 75 members, about half of whom are amateurs," reports Richard Purser, membership secretary of the Guild of Bookworkers. He adds that many of the professional members are engaged in decorating crafts related to hand binding, rather than binding itself.

"The number of private collectors of fine books has dwindled tremendously," says Ronald MacDonald, owner of James MacDonald & Co., New York. Recalling more glorious days, he adds: "We once bound a half dozen soup plates because Kipling had written verse on them. And during World War II we made a book over five feet tall. The movie industry gave it to Henry Morgenthau, then Secretary of the Treasury."

NO PEACE OF MIND

"In the crafts, a man must have time and peace of mind," says Whitman Bennett. "Today he can't have either. He must work quickly for modest pay."

In Mr. Bennett's long, dusty studio on Manhattan's 57th Street, six craftsmen work quietly at various phases of the trade. The sheets are sewed by hand; end papers are attached; the back is glued and rounded with a hammer; boards are laced to the book with the ends of the cords to which the sheets were sewed; leather is fastened to the boards; and finally a finisher decorates the leather, usually with gold. Simpler patterns are pressed into the leather with brass dies, while fine work is tooled by hand.

Like other fine hand binders, Mr. Bennett lets no visitor view his men at work or talk to them afterwards. He explains, without apology: "We try to keep our men in the status of workmen. The moment you let them think they're artists, they're not worth a darn." Other binders concede this tradition is a carry-over from former days when rival binders raided each other's shops for workmen. The custom continues today simply because work must be done carefully and quickly.

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Some new blood is being injected into the craft thanks to special university courses. At Columbia University in New York some 18 students are presently taking hand binding for credit. "We have more interest in this field now than in past years," says Mrs. Fred P. Young, an instructor.

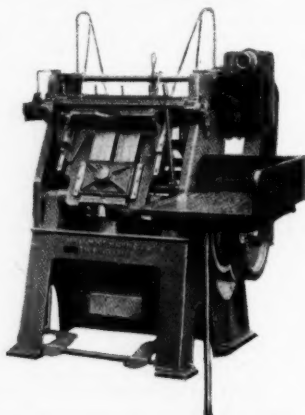
KNOW WHAT YOU ARE BUYING

Library binding and prebinding are a distinct method of binding designed for library use. The specifications for library binding require some 41 operations in which only approved materials may be used.

In order to protect librarians, LBI petitioned the Federal Trade Commission to issue a Fair Trades Practices Regulation for the Library Binding Industry. No one can represent to you that he is selling binding done in accordance with the Minimum Specifications unless he is, in fact, doing so. Otherwise he is committing an unfair trade practice.

To protect yourself make certain that you specify the type of binding you want, and that your seller of prebinds or library binding contracts and delivers to you what you order. Copies of specifications can be obtained from LBI, 10 State Street, Boston 9, Mass.

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**ACCEPTANCE GROWS
FOR LIBRARY BINDING
COMMERCIAL STANDARDS**

*Proposed Standards Derive From "Class A"
Specifications; Library Binders Favor
Acceptance*

by DUDLEY A. WEISS

Library Binding Institute General Counsel

In 1934 and 1935, when Library Binding Institute was formed, the American Library Association and Library Binding Institute created a Joint Committee to have jurisdiction over specifications. The present "Minimum Specifications for Class 'A' Library Binding" were adopted by the ALA Council in 1934 and the present "Standards For Reinforced (Pre-Library Bound) New Books" in 1938.

The proposed commercial standards are not something new. They are basically these two standards. They relate only to library binding and do not affect, nor are they concerned with, edition binding. The present petition was initiated in 1951 and has been thoroughly debated and discussed with librarians, suppliers, and library binders (including those not members of LBI).

The overwhelming percentage of library binding business, at present, is done according to these specifications. A 1954 survey (from a census sample submitted by ALA) conclusively indicates this.

In answer to this question asked in the survey, "Of your books and periodicals that are rebound, what percentage is done according to the Minimum Specifications of the Joint Committee of AIA and LBS?", the following information was received.

College and Reference Libraries—79% so rebound 100% of their work; 91% so rebound 75% to 100% of their work.

Public Libraries—80.6% so rebound 100% of their work; 92.4% so rebound 75% to 100% of their work.

In the same survey 40% of the librarians stated that they have new books with publishers' binding prebound for circulation, and 94% said they buy prebinds, of which 86% are in the children's picture-book category and 81% in the adult fiction category.

There have been 183, or more, acceptances for the proposed standards for library binding and 129, or more, acceptances for the proposed standards for pre-library bound books—close to 100% of these being acceptances of librarians and binders to whom the proposed standards were sent.

There have been three groups in opposition:

The ALA does not object to the standards, as such, but does feel that the term "library binding" should be permitted on other binding than that conforming to the standard and that specifications should be developed for an inferior binding before these are issued as a standard. LBI's position on these objections is that its members will do work other than Class A to meet the needs of their customers, but prevailing practices vary because of differing customers' requirements where circulation or use are not a factor. Hence, standards cannot be issued for this type of binding until some minimum uniformity is achieved. Furthermore, standards are based upon existing practices in an industry, and the present specifications clearly meet this test. It also feels that the present specifications are uniformly recognized by librarians as library binding.

A group of denominational binders object principally on the ground that other types of sewing than oversewing should be permitted. LBI feels that until a better method of manufacture than oversewing is developed, it should remain the standard. The standard permits use of Singer sewing on thin volumes and permits hand sewing.

A publisher and a group of book wholesalers who sell reinforced publishers' editions which do not conform to the existing specifications for pre-bound objects. This objection is not valid—first, because there are existing specifications for prebinds; and second, because publishers' reinforced editions will not wear as well as prebinds done according to these specifications. Copies of U.S. Testing Company test reports are available for study on this point. Libraries need many types of bindings to meet different use requirements and there is no competition between prebinds and publishers' editions. Prebinders purchase their volumes in sheets or otherwise from publishers, so no business is lost. If these volumes were not purchased prebound, they would eventually be rebound.

LBI does not feel that the opposition to these standards is valid, since the standards merely acknowledge the fact that the present specifications are in general use in the library binding industry.

The basic object of LBI in this matter is twofold:

A) To protect librarians by requiring that sellers make known to librarians what they are buying, so that no one can misrepresent or deceive librarians into buying something called "library binding" when it is not.

B) To protect binders by insuring fair competition on a high ethical basis, consistent with the Fair Trade Practices Regulation.

UNIVERSITY BINDERY OF ST. LOUIS



We greet with pleasure our new member, University Bindery of St. Louis. Organized in 1938 to carry on the library binding business of Kampmeyer and Wagner, the bindery serves the greater St. Louis area. University has twenty-four employees producing library bindings, albums and gold tooled leather products on two floors of the building located at 1009 Locust St.

Lloyd Hampe is a native of St. Louis, married and with two children: Sandra 11 and Stephan 9. He is active in Boy Scouting, YMCA, Chamber of Commerce and a St. Louis Flotilla of U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, of which he is commander. His hobby is cruising and summer week-ends are spent on Alton Lake near St. Louis.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BUILDS NEW MEDICAL LIBRARY

A new medical library building is going up at the University of Maryland on the site of the original library.

During the new construction, the University of Maryland Medical Library has moved to a temporary home at 8 South Green Street, Baltimore 1, Maryland. The new library is slated for completion in two years.

The Baltimore County Board of Library Trustees has also announced the removal of its Towson Library to larger quarters at 28 West Sussephanna Avenue, Towson 4, Maryland.

Currently underway is a drive for funds to build a new library building in the near future.

WELCOME NORTH TEXAS STATE COLLEGE

A warm welcome to the Library Book Bindery of North Texas State College as a new institutional member of LBI. This progressive program began as a small back repair unit in 1928 under the direction of one faculty member assisted by three student assistants.

In the re-organization of the Library program in 1939-40, the book bindery, which had previously been operating as an adjunct of the Department of Industrial Education, was incorporated as a division of the Main Library. Several classes in book binding were simultaneously transferred to the Department of Library Service.

In 1953, the Bindery observed its 25th anniversary.

Perhaps the unique feature of the Bindery at NTSC is its attachment to the Library. The manager of the Bindery is a staff member of the Library and also the Library School. This brings together the close relationship between binder, librarian, and library school, so necessary for a sound book conservation program. The bindery serves also as a laboratory for students enrolled in the Binding class.

The Manager, Mr. G. T. Hardesty, is the only full-time staff member in the Bindery. Sixteen students working part time (18 hrs./week) comprise the rest of the personnel.



From College Yearbook "The Yucca," 1956. G. T. Hardesty, Manager of the Bindery instructs students in the use of the Oversewing Machine.

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Two are selected as foremen and work 24 hours per week.

Equipment consists of the usual assortment of hand tools plus oversewing machine, Meyers roller backer, Potdevin glue machines, and Kwikprint stampers. Plant area, located in the basement of the main library, consists of 1500 sq. feet plus an additional 500 sq. feet devoted to classroom and storage.

Minimum Class "A" Specifications have long been the guide in our production. In addition to seeking quality first in our production, we aim toward quantity to meet the needs of the library and to provide a worthwhile experience for our student workers.

LEARN TO CALL ON LBI

... for any information regarding binding.

Over the past twenty years LBI has become the clearing house for problems relating to the maintenance of book collections for public, private and special libraries and schools.

To achieve the maximum results in book conservation consult your CERTIFIED BINDER.

THE LOST IS FOUND

The College of Medicine library at the University of Cincinnati recently added a new kind of luster to its fame with the discovery of an original Samuel Johnson two-volume English dictionary, printed in 1775.

Nobody knew that the library had them until a student assistant dug them out of a cabinet to be dusted. They were assessed for what they were by Miss Joan Tittle, librarian.

While not excessively rare, several libraries would "give their eye teeth for them", says Arthur Hamlin, UC librarian.

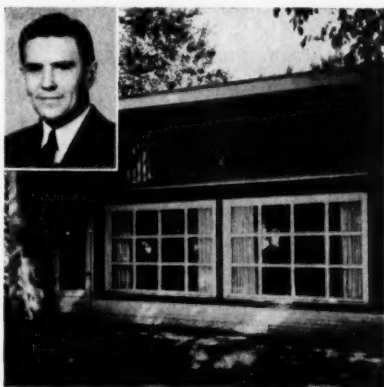


Photo courtesy Cincinnati Enquirer

AMERICAN BINDERY, TOPEKA

NEW LBI MEMBER

Greetings to American Bindery of Topeka, Kansas, a new LBI member whose owner is Kenneth I. Jones. Mr. Jones bought this business in May of 1948. At this time most of the binding was done by hand, and machinery was either non-existent or inadequate. Until the middle of 1950, Mr. and Mrs. Jones operated the business together at which time Mrs. Jones' father, Mr. B. B. Winkler, bought a fifty percent interest and took over the selling job. From that time until 1955 when Mr. Winkler suddenly died the growth was consistent and steady. On Mr. Winkler's death Jones took over sales, handing the administrative duties to his wife, and the production to



Ken Jones, American Bindery

Mr. Fowler and Mr. Davis. Mr. Jones reports: "We have grown from two employees to twelve, are still pint size, but have many friends, are proud of our workmanship and confident of the future. My wife and I both enjoy our small business. We would rather be in library binding than any other business".

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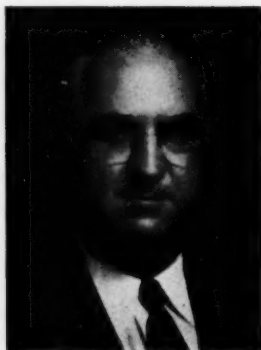
GANE BROTHERS AND LANE, INC.

CHICAGO - ST. LOUIS - SAN FRANCISCO - LOS ANGELES

Gane Brothers & Co. of New York, Inc.

NEW YORK - NEW YORK

GANE OPENS BOSTON OFFICE



One-hundred-ten year old Gane Bros. & Co. of New York, Inc., one of the oldest bookbinders supply houses in the nation, has opened offices at 31 St. James Avenue, Boston.

Head of the new office is Ernest L. Farwell, who has been with Gane's New York office for six years.

Mr. Farwell has been associated with several prominent book manufacturers in a production capacity. Prior to his connection with Gane Bros., he served as superintendent of the Haddon Craftsmen (Part of International Correspondence Schools, Scranton, Pa.), was associated with Scribner Press, New York City, and was superintendent of the American Book Company, New Jersey.

Mr. Farwell, a New Englander by birth, learned the bookbinding trade at Clinton Press, Norwood, Mass. He attended school in Everett, Mass.



SHAKE HANDS WITH TLB

Meet a new LBI member — The Tuscaloosa Library Bindery and its owner, E. W. Rosenfeld, who bought the bindery in March, 1955.

The Tuscaloosa Library Bindery caters to college, municipal and technical libraries and also does individual binding and restoration work.

First organized in 1941, the bindery has been growing by leaps and bounds. It started operations in the rear of a bookstore. Two years later in 1943, the bindery had to move into larger quarters. In 1954, again having outgrown its space, it moved into its current new air conditioned building.



CHARLES A. LEUNIG

We regret to announce the death of Charles A. Leunig, Executive Vice President and General Manager of the H. R. Hunting Company, Inc., Springfield, Massachusetts. Mr. Leunig spent the better part of his life among books, having operated retail book stores in New York, later becoming Vice President and Merchandise Manager of Womrath Library Chain.

Prior to becoming General Manager of the Hunting Company in 1951, Charlie, as he was affectionately known, was Eastern Representative of Carl K. Wilson Co. and Supervisor of Branches. The Library Binding Institute, Libraries throughout the country and all those whose lives are surrounded by books have lost a good friend.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Well-informed group of Educators, Librarians, Technicians and Business People assemble for the exchange of information and ideas at the Annual L.B.I. Convention and Joint Session of Librarians and Binders at Wagoner, Oklahoma, May 8, 9, 10.



MISS EDITH SCOTT

Joint Session Moderator

L B I is fortunate in having Miss Scott as moderator of the Workshop Panel at the Joint Session of Librarians and Library Binders on May 9.

Miss Scott is Assistant Director for Technical Services at the University of Oklahoma. Her background includes degrees of A.B., B.S. and A.M.L.S., the last being obtained from the University of Michigan in 1951. She also attended the University of Chicago in the summer of 1956 for graduate study. Her wide experience in practical library work covers positions as Cataloger at National College of Education, Lawrence College and University of Alabama, following which she became Technical Services Librarian at Ball State Teachers College, and finally, Assistant Director for Technical Services and Assistant Professor of Library Science at the University of Oklahoma where, at present, she is nominal supervisor of the Library Bindery.

Miss Scott holds memberships in American Library Association (DCC, ACRL, Serials Round Table, Etc.), Southwestern Library Association, Oklahoma Library Association, American Association of University Professors. Her real training for bindery preparation came at Ball State "With thanks," Miss Scott says, "to the Schnabels, father and son, of the National Library Bindery of Indiana."

MR. FRANK G. JENNINGS

Convention Speaker

Before assuming the position of executive director of the Library Club of America, Mr. Frank Jennings was Reading Specialist in the Bloomfield (N. J.) Junior High School where he worked with both students and the teaching staff. Mr. Jennings holds an M.A. in English from New York University and is

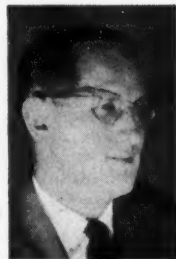


now engaged in writing a thesis in philosophy for a Ph.D. at the same university. He has taught in elementary schools, high schools and colleges; has conducted graduate seminars at NYU and Denver University. He is associated with Dr. Arthur I. Gates in the Language Arts Institute at Teachers College, Columbia University and is presently conducting a graduate seminar on writing problems at that institution. He is the author of numerous articles on reading and educational subjects for professional and general publications. He is co-editor with Charles Calitri of *Stories*, published by Harcourt Brace and Co., February 1957. Mr. Jennings holds memberships in the National Council of Teachers of English, the National Society for College Teachers of Education, the Philosophy of Education Society, Phi Delta Kappa, and Kappa Delta Pi.

MR. RICHARD H. BUSKIRK

Convention Speaker

Mr. Buskirk's topic "Selecting Personnel" is of timely interest to all those attending the meeting. His background and business experience make him an expert in this field. Although a young man, he holds degrees of BS (Cum Laude) and MBA from Indiana University and Doctor of Business Administration from the University of Washington. He



has taught Economics at University of Kansas, has been an instructor in Marketing at University of Washington, and at present is assistant Professor of Marketing at University of Oklahoma.

Mr. Buskirk has held various positions in the business world covering automotive accessories, lumber, jewelry, baby furniture, television and theatres. He is author of four articles on the Plywood Industry and currently is consultant for a number of business firms in the southwest.

WILLIAM B. STERN

Convention Speaker

LBI has been fortunate in having its old friend Mr. William B. Stern as a speaker at this meeting. Many will remember his very informative and helpful talks at previous conventions. Mr. Stern is Superintendent of Binding and Processing at the New York Public Library and is well acquainted with the problems of both librarians and binders. His topic "How Librarians can Help Binders" conveys a real message to both.

REACTIONS TO SPECIFICATIONS

BRING INTERESTING COMMENTS

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In assembling material in connection with the Commercial Standards, it was interesting to observe how Class A Binding Specifications have contributed to the present high standards of Certified Binders — and how important these standards have become to leaders in the technique of book conservation. Following are excerpts from a few letters received. Names can be supplied on request.)

"It is my belief that the greatest contribution that the specifications have made to libraries has been that most binderies, LBI members or not, have had a definite goal to attain, whereas in the past every bindery had its own ideas regarding this service."

"One of the most gratifying things about following Class A specifications is that it keeps to an absolute minimum the necessity of sending instructions detailing the manner of binding. In a library such as ours with a small staff, this is important. You published my prize-winning essay on our use of Class A binding in your Institute Newsletter a couple of years ago; you will find there a number of quotable statements that you could use from me as President of this Association."

"To the individual binder the minimum specifications help him determine the quality of materials and his care in producing the best binding for his customer at the lowest over-all cost. Without minimum specifications there could be no standard available for comparison, either as to quality of materials or as to workmanship involved. These specifications to the librarian assure a positive guarantee that the binding received will be the best quality at the lowest over-all cost. Otherwise, there would be no basis upon which a librarian could judge for himself the quality of bindings, nor determine even closely their actual value."

"The minimum specifications have had only beneficial effects on libraries and librarians. The greatest result of these specifications is that libraries since then have been getting bindings which are adequate and equal to the demands and treatment required by normal, as well as rugged usage from library patrons; and thereby these specifications have become the greatest economic device for lowest circulation cost."

"The minimum specifications for 'Grade A Binding' used these many years, has been a guide and a foundation for Librarians in knowing what type of a binding they were receiving. It also would mean that if they were dealing with a reliable Binder he would honestly follow these specifications and the Librarians could keep their book stock in good condition."

"The existence of the ALA/LBI specifications has undoubtedly been very helpful to librarians. For many years, they have had a carefully prepared standard which they could incorporate or refer to in binding contracts and thus hold their binders to a high standard of performance. Binders, too, have benefited. By adhering faithfully to this code, they have in most cases been able to establish and maintain a high standard of service to their customers."

"Library expenditures for binding being what they are, the librarian still benefits from the studies of the binders themselves looking to improved machinery and procedures. Their endeavor to hold down or reduce costs and avoid increased prices for their product, results not only in advantages to the individual plant, but to the librarian as well, and through the Institute to the mutual advantage of all members."

"I do know that the standards have meant a great deal to a lot of librarians, who are not too familiar with good binding. They have also meant a great deal in keeping the general standard of library binding up to a high quality and this has benefited both binderies and librarians."

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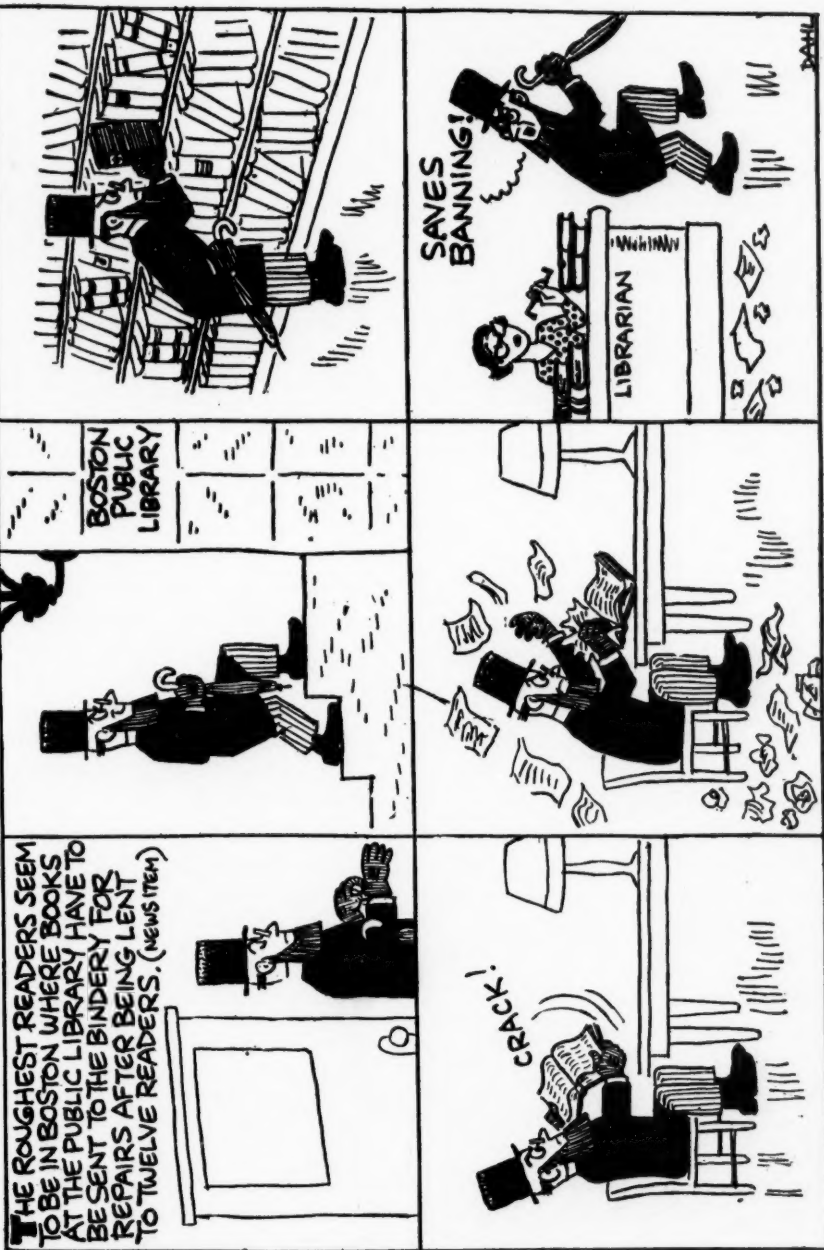
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